

Business of the House

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have to deal with a very important matter and I want the attention of all members including the Treasury Benches. Sri S. Sivappa raised a very important point. He asked how is it that there are only 7 questions. Of course, one hour has been fully spent and therefore there can be no legitimate grievance on the part of the members. The number of questions answered is not material, but the full one hour devoted for questions has been fully utilized for these questions and that too at the instance of members. Today we have spent 70 minutes on Questions. But, then the question still remains as to why it is that the Government is not able to give sufficient interpellations to be answered. The number 12 is a very low figure. In other legislatures they are putting much more than 12 Questions a day. I cannot possibly understand what the difficulty is. Unless somebody looks into this and finds out where the default lies and see that stagnation is removed, it will be very difficult.

Sri S. R. KANTHI (Minister for Education).—Sir, the other day you mentioned this fact.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Not the other day. Everyday this is mentioned.

Sri S. R. KANTHI.—Yes, Sir. The Government also is trying to do its best and we are trying to get answers as much as possible. In some cases it is difficult to get because we have to get information from the villages and taluk places. I assure you that we will look into the matter once again and try to get as much answer as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It is a very unsatisfactory explanation. I want that there should be proper appraisal of the importance of the question. The Government must remember that the members will be ready to do other work if the first hour every day is devoted properly. Unless the question hour is fully utilised according to normal rule, I will not allow any other work to be taken up. What is the right of the Government? It has to do first hour perfectly and properly. If they do not do that it means that they do not give proper attention to the importance of the Question Hour. The importance of the Question Hour has been emphasised by everybody. I have made a special request to the Government. I have got with me a list showing how many questions are overdue from each ministry. I have received requests for extension of time with the remark that they have not been able to get information from their subordinates. Without even disclosing what is the nature, to say simply that my subordinate has not done it, may satisfy the minister but it cannot be satisfactory on the Floor of the House. Cannot every minister give answer at least to one Question every day? It looks as if nobody looks into this. That is not fair to the House. If there are 30 Questions or 40 Questions addressed to each Minister, can they not single out one Question at least every day and give answers?

Sri S. R. KANTHI.—We will do that.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I must get it at least 48 hours in advance because I must get it translated and send it to the press. Formerly there was no courtesy of a request for extension of time. Now everybody does not seem to have taken note of it. It is highly irregular. There should be no officer or minister or secretary without making a request after the expiration of 15 days time, and now what justification is there for extension of time? Is it that they do not think it proper or find no time? That is not the way of paying respect to the House. I will distribute this to the various ministers and make a personal request and appeal to them to please try and send answer to at least one Question every day. Then at least I will have 15 Questions per day. I have hardly three more days. I have with me individual grievances from members. Here one member has said that questions 176, 185, 186, 188, 189 and 859 sent in November 1964 have not been replied. If Government is not able to get information from November, I do not know how to characterise it. It is absolutely unfair to the members. Members also will kindly help and make it a point to be present when the questions come up.

Public Accounts Committee—Appointment of Chairman.

Under sub-rule (3) of rule 196 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, I hereby nominate Sri Ganji Veerappa as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Subordinate Legislation Committee—Appointment of Chairman.

Under sub-rule (3) of rule 196 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, I hereby nominate Sri C. M. Desai as Chairman of the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

Sri S. SIVAPPA (Sravanabelagola).—Sir, of course I am not questioning the announcement made. Usually a well established parliamentary practice in Lok Sabha and British Parliament is that the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee will be a member from the opposition side. Here also in this Assembly when ex-Chief Minister Sri Hanumanthaiya was there.

Mr. SPEAKER.—How are these conventions talked about on the Floor of the House? The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House must meet and settle. I have no objection. Why not party leaders meet?
